

# SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

TO: Councilmember Bruce Harrell

DATE: October 28, 2013

FROM: Lieutenant Mark Mount  
Forensic Support Services

SUBJECT: Booking Photo Comparison Software

**Background:** The planned use of this software is for when a crime has occurred and a photographic image has been captured. Some examples of where the image could originate are an ATM camera, convenience store camera, or even a cell phone camera. This retrieved image will then be compared to a database of mug shots belonging to persons that have been booked into the King County Jail. If a subject with similar facial constellations is found, the similar image will be used as a lead for further investigation.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Booking Photo Comparison Software is to allow police to compare photographic images of an unknown suspect to a database of 500,000 booking photos supplied by King County. This image comparison allows for development of leads based on facial constellations. Once a lead is generated, further investigation may result in probable cause.

**Policy Development:** The Department has created the attached policy, which has been previewed with the ACLU and other stake holders. The policy specifies the following:

- A crime must have occurred to use the software.
- Data will be retained for 42 months at the request of the ACLU.
- No camera system, including any owned or controlled by the City of Seattle, will be connected to this software.
- Only Photo Lab employees who are trained will use this software and will adhere to restrictions.

**Implementation and Timeline:** Once the policy has been approved, it can be forwarded to City Council so that it accompanies the grant approval process. [The grant is part of the UASI 00 legislation that will be forwarded to your committee in December.](#) To satisfy conditions of the grant, this must be accepted by year end 2013. It is essential that we hear and pass this legislation in early December 2013. Vendor selection for the software is anticipated to occur in the first quarter of 2014.

This information database can be shared with your office if desired and I am available to meet with you to address any concerns or additional information needed.